

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

Purpose: The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is comprised of two distinct organizations: the Water Resources Division and the Fire & Aviation Management Bureau (F&AMB). The purpose of each division is as follows:

Water Resources Division - The division is responsible for several programs associated with the uses, development and protection of Montana's waters.

F&AMB - The bureau is Montana's state-level wildfire suppression agency. The DNRC F&AMB provides fire protection services on 52.2 million acres of State & privately owned lands in Montana as specified in State resource management plans or as required by state statutes. Of this acreage, approximately 6.9 million acres fall under the jurisdiction of DNRC through the Direct Protection Program and approximately 45.3 million acres fall under the jurisdiction of county government with support provided by DNRC under the State-County Cooperative Fire Protection Program. Exact acreage varies from year to year depending on jurisdiction exchanges and changes to contract protection agreements.

Authorities:

Water Resources Division: MCA - **Title 37**, Chapter 43; **Title 76**, Chapter 5 and **Title 85**, Chapters 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,15,16 &20.

F&AMB: MCA - **Title 7**, Chapter 33, Parts 2101 – 4208 and **Title 76:** Chapter 11, Part 101; Chapter 13, Parts 105, 201 & 202.

Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) – **Section** 1910.156 and 1910.120 and **Part** 311.

Roles & Responsibilities:

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

State Water Projects Bureau

- Identify potential dam incident situations & initiate implementation of action plans. [*Dam Failure*]
- Conduct inspections & provide expertise with repair & rehabilitation of DNRC & MFWP owned canals & dams. [*Technical Assistance*]
- Provide support in assessing damages to canals & dams. [*Damage Assessment*]

Water Operations Bureau

- Conduct inspections & provide expertise with repair & rehabilitation of all canals & dams. [*Technical Assistance*]

- Provide a resource list for licensed well drillers & monitoring well drillers. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Modify construction well standards to expedite or protect water well construction. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance interpreting flood-plain maps and identifying flood-plain zones. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance identifying flood caused damages. *[Damage Assessment]*
- Administer the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) and provide mitigation assistance for relocation & flood protective measures. *[Mitigation Assistance]*
- Provide assistance producing flood inundation maps during a dam, levee or dike incident. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance identifying potential at-risk levees, dikes or dams. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance with construction oversight for levee, dike or dam repairs. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance assessing the damages to affected levees, dikes or dams. *[Damage Assessment]*

Water Rights Bureau

- Expedite the permitting for water users. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance identifying water right owners & water use facilities or structures. *[Technical Assistance]*

Water Management Bureau

- Coordinate with water users to redirect water allocations. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance with hydrologic analysis: i.e. water availability, erosion potential, materials migration, sediment movement, channel capacity flows and flow and volume measurements. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide assistance identifying hazardous material migration with respect to surface and ground water. *[Hazmat]*
- Active member of the State Hazard Mitigation Team for establishing project priorities statewide, developing the mitigation strategy and locating any possible departmental funds for project completion. *[Mitigation Assistance]*

- Active member of the Governor's DAC providing staff support for development, maintenance and implementation of the Montana Drought Response Plan. *[Drought]*

FIRE & AVIATION MANAGEMENT BUREAU

Division of Forestry

- Responsible for managing wild land fires within the DNRC Direct Protection or County Cooperative Fire jurisdictions and the management of personnel, aircraft, equipment and supplies. *[Fire]*
- Responsible for supporting structure protection agencies in the event of a structure or wild land urban interface fire. *[Fire]*
- Responsible for coordinating the state's response to any other type of fire in the event a state incident, emergency or disaster declaration is issued. *[Fire]*
- Provide liaison and coordination with other fire management organizations at the local, state, and national level. *[Fire]*
- Coordinate with the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group (NRCG) to effectively manage fires that go beyond jurisdictional boundaries in the states of: Montana, Northern Idaho, North Dakota and Northwestern South Dakota. *[Fire]*
- Act as a secondary means for other designated or primary forms of communication using the network of available base stations, handheld and mobile radios, radio repeaters, radio kits and repair and maintenance facilities. May order additional equipment through the Northern Rockies Coordination Center (NRCC). *[Communications]*
- Coordinate the procurement and timely distribution of fire information. *[Coordination - Public Information]*
- Act as a secondary source for established incident command teams and disaster relief organizations to provide food through the purchase of meals or sack lunches from a restaurant, the purchase & issue of MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) rations, the deployment of DNRC field kitchens or the ordering of National Caterers from the National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC). *[Individual Assistance - Food Distribution]*
- Act as the state's liaison for obtaining available resources through the NRCG and the National Resource Ordering System (i.e. aircraft, crews, equipment, supplies and incident management and operation personnel). *[Coordination]*
- Provide personnel and aviation resources to assist in damage assessment operations. *[Damage Assessment]*
- Provide personnel and aviation resources to assist in SAR operations. *[Technical Assistance]*

- Provide Incident Command & Incident Advisory personnel to assist in managing large-scale operations. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide field assistance to cooperating counties. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Provide firefighting training so involved personnel may perform assigned tasks at or better than minimum levels to meet fire protection responsibilities. *[Technical Assistance]*
- Active member of the State Hazard Mitigation Team for establishing project priorities statewide, developing the mitigation strategy and locating any possible departmental funds for project completion. *[Mitigation Assistance]*